



Newsletter

October 2024

Helping those with barriers to employment
and community inclusion since 1948.

Message from the President

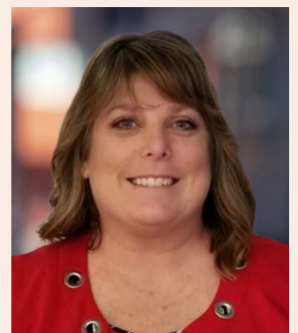
In June, we said good-bye to our long-time CEO, Mike Krebsbach. We are thankful for his years of commitment to our mission, and we are eager to carry the organization forward. Since becoming AccessAbility's CEO in June, my team and I have been working hard to chart a course for the future. This summer has been a time of strategic planning with our management team and goal setting with all team members. As a result, many great ideas have been generated to increase engagement, expand programming opportunities, and create more jobs for the people we serve.

Second Quarter Highlights:

- New garden program: persons served purchased and planted flowers, vegetables, and herbs in our new on-site gardens. In the future, the program will be enhanced with additional cooking classes and more community engagement.
- Successful Annual 5K/Picnic/Bags Tournament in September. The weather was great, 113 people attended the events, and we reached our fundraising goals.
- Excellent Special Olympics Bocce Ball season. Practices have begun for the next Special Olympic event – bowling.
- Growth in business service opportunities which, in turn, creates more work and training opportunities for persons served.
 - Awarded 10 new Community Employment Contracts (delivery begins December 1).
 - Tripled apparel and gift orders for Works of Heart, our gift and home décor business service.
 - Increased opportunities in our recycling services.
 - Created more job opportunities in facilities, landscaping, and customer delivery services.

I would like to thank all the participants in our September Annual 5K/Picnic/Bags Tournament. A special thank you to our sponsors and donors for their generosity. We can't do what we do without you! It is always a fun and uplifting time for all who attend.

As we move forward together, I will be excited to share more of our plans and their results throughout the year.



AnneMarie Klimek
CEO, President

Upcoming Evening Stars Events

Interested in Coming? -> Contact Katie: kchambers@accessability.org



HALLOWEEN Party

Date: October 24, 5:30 - 7pm
Cost: \$5 per person



THANKSGIVING Dinner

Date: November 19, 5 - 7pm
Cost: \$10 per person for a catered meal from Lake Elmo Inn

Person Served Spotlight: Margo - In Memory



Margo attended AccessAbility for an outstanding 46 years. She enjoyed participating in vocational services, day programming, and Evening Stars events. Margo was a talented artist, especially in painting classes and loved a good chocolate dessert she baked in class. Margo took so much pride in each ribbon and medal she won when competing at bocce ball and bowling competitions through Special Olympics.

Margo passed away suddenly in June, right before an upcoming bocce ball competition. Her team competed in her honor with t-shirts in her memory. Margo's witty sense of humor, dedication, and caring soul will be deeply missed.

Special Olympics

AccessAbility participated in the Special Olympics again this year! Held on August 18th, our Evening Stars Bocce Ball Team competed at the M Health Fairview Sports Center. We made it to the state competition, playing in singles, modified ramp singles, and modified doubles.

Congratulations to the Winners:

Nick: 4th Place in Singles and Bronze Medal in Modified Doubles

Kenny: Gold Medal in Singles

Michael: Silver Medal in Modified Ramp Singles

Phillip: Bronze Medal in Modified Ramp Singles

MaryLouise: Silver Medal in Modified Ramp Singles

Thank you to staff and volunteers who helped coach our team:

Delegation Coach: Katie

Team Coaches: Pete, Laney, & Carl

Assistant Coach: Will



Works of Heart: AccessAbility, Inc. Social Enterprise Business

We are excited to announce Imagine Design, our gift and home décor social enterprise business, has been rebranded as Works of Heart! Works of Heart provides paid employment for those with disabilities and other barriers to employment, while also providing great products and designs for the home décor market. All manufacturer profits support their efforts. The decision to rename our company to Works of Heart is driven by the need to better reflect our mission and the new direction of providing products with higher-end original artwork and incorporating new manufacturing technologies.



Works of Heart will continue to carry most of the traditional products from Imagine Design, which focused on interior home décor. While continuing to develop interior home décor products, we have significantly expanded to outdoor décor products. This includes a vast new selection of porch and garden products such as wind spinners, garden and plant markers, and a large selection of weather-resistant porch board signs. Works of Heart also has a large custom apparel component of the business.

If you would like to learn more about Works of Heart or would like to talk to us about custom apparel, please contact us at (612) 331-5958 or email us at sales@works-of-heart.org. You can also find us on Instagram @worksofheartmn.

give a gift with heart



21 Roots Leadership Program

We are pleased to announce that Ben has accomplished the 21 Roots Leadership Program! The program, offered by 21 Roots Farm, teaches individuals with disabilities about agriculture and animals. Ben attended the program in the spring, where he gained hands-on experience with the agricultural processes on the farm. 21 Roots Farm was so impressed with Ben's positivity and dedication that they asked him to participate in another program. Ben is now enrolled in this new program and lights up when he's there.



Employee of the Month: Mark

Mark joined AccessAbility this year and has quickly made an impact! He goes out of his way to do more to support AccessAbility, even helping out extra on days when needed. Outside of work, Mark enjoys spending time with his son and dog, and likes gaming in his free time. His favorite thing about working at AccessAbility is the people. Mark is glad he has the opportunity to make a positive impact by doing something good for the community.



AccessAbility's Annual 5K and Summer Picnic

Our Annual 5K, End-of-Summer Picnic, and Bean Bag Toss was a success! With over 100 people in attendance, we had a great turnout.

Your participation has made an impact!
All funds raised are used to buy vans to enable AccessAbility to provide additional transportation to persons served to and from programs, community inclusion activities, and work sites.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Annual 5K. A special thank you to our event sponsors: NE Minneapolis Lions, Groves Foundation, and A Couple of Gurus. We also extend our gratitude to our raffle donors: Glensheen Mansion, Great Lakes Aquarium, and Taylors Falls River Boat Tour.

